

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT FUNDS WORKING GROUP

Friday, April 13, 2007 – 1:00 a.m.
MAG Office Building, Suite 200 - Cholla Room
302 North First Avenue, Phoenix

MEMBERS PRESENT

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| Councilman Michael Johnson, Co-Chair,
Phoenix | # Robert Schultz, Mesa, representing
the Arts Community |
| * Ed Beasley, Co-Chair, Glendale,
representing the MAG Management
Committee | Dawn Coomer, Scottsdale, representing
the MAG Pedestrian Working Group |
| * Robert Yabes, Tempe, representing the
MAG Street Committee | Bill Lazenby, representing the MAG
Regional Bicycle Task Force |
| Angela Dye, A Dye Design, representing
the American Society of Landscape
Architects, Arizona Chapter | * Doug Kupel, Arizona Preservation
Foundation, representing the
Archaeological and Historic
Preservation Community |
- * Not present.
Participated by telephone conference call.

OTHERS PRESENT

Kevin Wallace, MAG	Ray Dovalina, City of Phoenix
Matthew Hanson, City of Goodyear	Gail Brinkmann, City of Phoenix
Ronnie Stricklin, MCDOT	Mark Young, Town of Queen Creek
Peggy Rubach, MCDOT	Don Homan, Jr., Town of Buckeye
Lynn Timmons, City of Phoenix	

1. Call to Order

Co-Chair Michael Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

2. Approval of the June 13, 2006, Meeting Minutes of the Enhancement Funds Working Group

Addressing the first order of business, Co-Chair Johnson asked if there were any changes or amendments to the meeting minutes, and asked for a formal approval. Mr. Bill Lazenby moved to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Angela Dye Lazenby seconded, and the minutes were subsequently approved by unanimous voice vote of the Working Group.

3. Introduction of Working Group Members and Members of the Audience

Co-Chair Johnson asked members of the Working Group, and those individuals who were in attendance to introduce themselves. He also noted that Mr. Robert Schultz was attending the meeting via telephone conference call.

4. Call to the Audience

Co-Chair Johnson stated that he had not received any request to speak cards from the audience, and moved to the next item on the Agenda.

5. Staff Report

Co-Chair Johnson introduced Mr. Kevin Wallace, MAG Transit Program Manager, to provide an update on current items of interest. Mr. Wallace provided a summary of the Round XIV Transportation Enhancement funding for the MAG region, included in the Agenda packet as Attachment A. Mr. Wallace noted that the MAG region received five projects, including the following: US-60 Multi-Use Pathway (Town of Wickenburg); Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Program (City of Avondale); South Mountain Community College Pedestrian Crossing (City of Phoenix); Grand Canal Pedestrian Pathway (City of Glendale); and Heritage District Downtown Pedestrian Project (Town of Gilbert).

Mr. Wallace then briefed the Working Group on the March 21, 2007, meeting of the Transportation Enhancement Review Committee (TERC). Mr. Wallace distributed a copy of the Arizona Department of Transportation's (ADOT's) Round XV Transportation Enhancement Application, and noted that several minor changes were approved by the TERC at the March 21 meeting. First, the TERC approved new commitment requirements for local government resolutions. Specific items that the resolutions must address include the project sponsor's commitment to provide a 5.7% local match; to commit to advertise the project within three years; to commit to pay for all cost overruns; and to commit to reimburse ADOT for all federal funds used if the project is canceled by the project sponsor. Mr. Wallace then stated that a new optional item for before and after photos is identified in the application, and that the cost estimate spreadsheet now includes a line item for soil stabilization for multi-use paths. Mr. Wallace informed the group that the TERC spent a considerable amount of time discussing the need for better cost estimates, in light of rapidly escalating commodity prices. Suggestions from the TERC for local project sponsors to develop better cost estimates included researching costs with local public works departments, ADOT project managers, ADOT district engineers, and materials suppliers.

Mr. Wallace concluded his report by informing the Working Group that ADOT estimates there will be \$8 million for local projects and \$4 million for state projects as part of Round XV.

Ms. Dawn Coomer asked if the TERC had considered increasing the \$500,000 cap for local enhancement projects, noting that recent cost increases had made it difficult to complete projects for that amount of money. Mr. Wallace responded that he had discussed this issue with ADOT staff, and was told that the TERC voted against raising the project cap at its October 2006 meeting. Co-Chair Johnson indicated that this would reduce the number of projects funded each year, and that issue had driven recent conversations at the TERC. Co-Chair Johnson also noted that the TERC has set aside part of the annual funding to address cost overruns. Ms. Angela Dye stated that this issue should be revisited in the future, as prices for constructing projects continues to escalate.

6. Schedule for Round XV Transportation Enhancement Funds

Co-Chair Johnson asked Mr. Wallace to update the Working Group on MAG's schedule for the Round XV. Mr. Wallace provided an overview of the Round XV schedule, included with the Agenda packet as Attachment B.

Ms. Dye noted that she would not be able to attend either of the Working Group meetings in June, but would provide her comments and scores in writing.

7. Transportation Enhancement Ranking

Co-Chair Johnson addressed the next order of business by stating that he would like to see if there was a way to make the process more equitable for small cities. As an example, Co-Chair Johnson stated that cities that receive enhancement funds could be required to set out from the application process for one year. Co-Chair Johnson indicated it also might be more effective for the MAG region to limit the number of projects submitted to the TERC. Co-Chair Johnson then referred the Working Group to a letter from Mr. Doug Kupel, who was in favor of funding more historic preservation projects in the future.

Mr. Bill Lazenby indicated that he's heard that some cities don't have the funds to provide the required 5.7% match. Ms. Coomer stated that the 5.7% match wasn't the primary issue, rather, that \$500,000 doesn't go very far, and that it's a big issue for the TERC when a project has a very high local match, because it looks like you don't need the enhancement money.

Discussion ensued, and Mr. Robert Schultz said that one option would be to rank the highest rated small city project as the region's number two priority, regardless of how it rated otherwise. Ms. Dye asked Mr. Schultz how the Working Group would decide what constituted a small city. Mr. Schultz stated that he had not researched the issue, but that 100,000 might be a logical cut-off, and suggested that MAG staff research the League of Cities definition of a small city. Ms. Coomer stated that her impression was that small cities were doing pretty well with the enhancement program, particularly over the last year or two. Co-Chair Johnson stated that he would like to involve more small cities in the program, and noted that the TERC was very impressed with the City of Avondale's bicycle education project.

Ms. Coomer asked if MAG staff had been contacted by small cities that were concerned with the current process. Mr. Wallace stated that since he had been coordinating the program over the last two months, he had not been contacted on this issue. Ms. Dye then noted that a significant issue for the smaller cities is that they typically aren't self administered, which makes the ADOT project development process even longer.

Co-Chair Johnson stated that it was clear to him that there was no clear direction on changing the current process at this time. He indicated that he would discussions on this topic. Co-Chair Johnson indicated that the Working Group and MAG staff would continue to work toward increasing the project cap.

Ms. Coomer suggested that MAG staff stress at the April 27 application workshop that there are two processes for the enhancement program. The MAG process may be intimidating for some of the smaller cities, but there is still an opportunity for the small cities to get their projects funded through the state process. Mr. Wallace indicated that he would make note of that issue at the application workshop.

8. Future Meeting Dates

Co-Chair Johnson stated the next meeting of the MAG Enhancement Funds Working Group was scheduled for June 14, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. in the MAG Saguaro Room. There being no comments or questions, Co-Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 1:39 p.m.